

Dock work restarts in Israel

TEL AVIV, March 25 (R). — The first citrus-laden ship set sail for Europe Friday after a crippling two-day strike of stevedores that cost the economy millions of dollars. Citrus growers and port authorities complained that the stevedores, who returned yesterday evening to their jobs under government, back-to-work orders, were working to rule. Meanwhile, a fresh labour dispute erupted today at the State Broadcasting Authority with the walk-out of several hundred administrative and technical staff. Employees of the Bank of Israel, Bank Leumi and government Land Registry Office continued their strike, which began earlier this week.

Volume 2, Number 419

AMMAN, SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1977 — RABIE AL THANI 6, 1397

Price : 50 fils

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردين تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية « الراي »

Jordan asks for observers in Jerusalem Security Council hears Egypt's plea for Geneva

ED NATIONS, March 25 — Egypt asked the Security Council today to call for a prompt reconvening of the East Peace Conference in Geneva, with the participation of all parties — including Israel.

U.S. Ambassador Ismat Meguid made the appeal before the Security Council. He told the council "cease-fire problems" must be solved before a resumption of talks was possible.

He was alluding in particular to Israel's refusal to take part in the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Waldheim, who undertook a tour of the Middle East last month to explore the possibilities of getting Arab negotiations going, said he had in a report that changes in all sides were needed. He said efforts now under way to contribute to such change, the secretary general said.

Meguid accused Israel of trying to prevent

peace and sweep aside "the core of the whole problem," the fate of the Palestinians.

Speaking on the question for the first time since the Carter administration took over, U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young reiterated American opposition to the seating of the Palestine Liberation Organisation to take part in the debate.

He said an invitation to the PLO was inappropriate and asked for a vote on it. Mr. Young cast the only negative vote. Ten members voted for it and four abstained: Britain, France, Canada and West Germany.

Assailing Israel's policy of territorial annexation and settling occupied lands, the Egyptian delegate said this "deliberate and reckless policy could only lead to one conclusion, that Israel has no intention of reaching a peaceful settlement."

The 15-nation council interrupted debate on South Africa's apartheid practices to consider the Middle East problem, at Egypt's request, and Mr. Meguid said that among the settlers being brought into the occupied territories by Israel were South Africans.

He said there was close military and other co-operation between "the two racist regimes". Both Israel and South Africa boasted of this and considered it a model, he said.

"Egypt considers any help given to Israel from any source or country to establish settlements or to exploit and plunder the natural resources of the occupied territories, such as drilling for oil in Sinai, as a hostile act against Egypt," he said.

Mr. Meguid said Israeli policy could easily lead the area — if nothing is done — to war.

It was of paramount importance in Egypt's view, that the council call for the prompt reconvening of the peace conference with the participation of all the parties, he said.

Jordanian representative Hazem Nuseibeh proposed that, pending a just peace settlement, the Security Council establish a three-man monitoring team in Jerusalem to ensure that Israel strictly observed the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding the protection of civilians.

He said the team should be installed in Jerusalem's Government House, which houses the U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation and would "report monthly to the Security Council on any and all violations of the integrity and violability" of the occupied territories and their people.

Dr. Nuseibeh added that, to make the proposal more palatable to Israel, the council could appoint to the team countries which maintained diplomatic relations with Israel.

"I have in mind, for example, the United States, Britain and France."

Hassan will visit Holland, Austria

AMMAN (Agencies). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Highness Princess Tharwat will leave Monday on an official visit to Holland for a few days at the invitation of the Dutch government, the Royal Hashemite Court announced Friday.

They will also visit Austria at the invitation of Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, the announcement added.

Former Congolese president executed

BRAZZAVILLE, March 25 (R). — Former Congolese President Alphonse Massamba Debat was executed today, it was officially announced.

Mr. Massamba Debat was sentenced to death at a court martial yesterday after admitting he had known in advance of plans to kill his successor Marien Ngouabi, who was assassinated here last Friday.

The new ruling military committee had accused Mr. Massamba Debat, who was president from 1963 to 1968, of organising the assassination of President Ngouabi, shot dead by what it said was a four-man "suicide squad".

Mr. Massamba Debat told the 11-man committee yesterday he had drawn up a government list, with himself as head, to rule the Congo after the killing, according to government radio.



His Majesty King Hussein is flanked by Their Majesties King Carlos and Queen Sophia prior to the dinner banquet given in his honour in Basman Palace Friday. (JNA photo).

Salt accord is keynote of Vance's Moscow talks

MOSCOW, March 25 (AFP). — Talks aimed at a new Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (Salt Two) agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union will be the keynote of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's visit to Moscow which begins tonight.

Mr. Vance is scheduled to arrive here tonight at the head of a large team of high-ranking officials from the State Department and the Department of Defense as well as from the National Security Council. He is due to open three days of talks with the Soviet Union on Monday.

Bhutto arrests all opposition leaders

ISLAMABAD, March 25 (R). — The Pakistan government today locked up the leaders of the nine-party opposition alliance after they rejected a dialogue with Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on disputed general elections.

In a sharp crackdown on the opposition, the authorities issued orders that anyone indulging in anti-government violence would be shot on sight.

The pre-dawn roundup of opposition leaders came barely 12 hours after the nine-party Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) refused a third offer of talks with Mr. Bhutto.

In Lahore, police re-arrested the PNA President Maulana Murtaza Bhutto and its Secretary General Prof. Ghaffar Ahmed. Two other PNA leaders, Mian Tufail Mohammad and

Malik Mohammad Qasim, were also taken into custody.

In curfew-bound Karachi, alliance leaders Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani and Mr. Sherbaz Mazari were arrested again for the second time in a week. Official sources confirmed the arrests but declined to comment. A government statement was expected later today.

"The arrests were hardly unexpected after we turned Mr. Bhutto down yesterday," said one PNA source. "The risk now is that the opposition movement against Mr. Bhutto will go wild with no-one to control it."

The PNA made clear it would only be prepared to talk to Mr. Bhutto if he first agreed to resign so that fresh elections could be held under an impartial administration and the supervision of the army and judiciary.

Mr. Bhutto has repeatedly denied any election rigging, but he has widened the powers of the election commission to investigate complaints. He bluntly told the opposition that new elections were out of the question.

Observers said the roundup of PNA leaders today indicated Mr. Bhutto had no intention of bowing to their demands and had now lost patience with them.

Sadat to visit Washington on April 4-5

WASHINGTON, March 25 (R). — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat will visit Washington on April 4 and 5 to confer with President Carter on the Middle East situation, the White House announced today.

The two presidents will discuss the continuing efforts to move towards peace in the Middle East as well as other issues, it said.

Carter: Going nuclear is a must

WASHINGTON, March 25 (R). — President Carter feels nuclear power will have to be used in overcoming the energy crisis, even though it is not his first choice, the White House said today. Press Secretary Jody Powell told reporters Mr. Carter was still reluctant to increase the use of nuclear fuels, but felt it would have to be done because alternatives to oil and natural gas could not be developed quickly. He said the development of solar power would be part of the new energy policy the president plans to send Congress on April 20. Meanwhile, 57 members of the 100-seat Senate today told President Carter they strongly supported his stand for human rights and individual freedom throughout the world.

Hussein, Juan Carlos end talks in Aqaba

AMMAN (Agencies). — His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain and his host, His Majesty King Hussein, Friday completed their talks in Aqaba.

The two monarchs, who began their formal talks in Amman Thursday, had more time for private discussions Friday. They returned to Amman with Her Majesty Queen Sofia later in the day.

Official sources said King Hussein set out Jordan's attitude towards Middle East peace efforts, reiterating that the Palestine Liberation Organisation should take part in any negotiations as an independent entity.

Israel has called for the Palestinian problem to be solved within the context of Israeli-Jordanian negotiations.

King Hussein also reiterated the Arabs' view that a just and lasting peace could only be achieved if Israel withdraws from all territories it occupied in the 1967 war.

King Juan Carlos also chaired a conference in Aqaba today of Spanish ambassadors accredited in the Arab World, at which they reviewed the Middle East situation and Spain's policy in the region.

A Spanish spokesman said they discussed ways of expanding relations between Spain and the Arab World. Spain and Greece are the only West European states, which have no diplomatic relations with Israel.

Friday evening, King Juan Carlos gave a dinner banquet at Basman Palace in honour of King Hussein.

King Juan Carlos toasted his host by saying: "As these days which have made us so happy draw to an end... days which shall be fruitful for relations between our peoples, following the continuous dialogue with Your Majesty, and the talks between the foreign ministers of our two countries... as these days draw to an end, I can say that we have fostered the existing friendship and understanding between our countries."

"I thank Your Majesty for the opportunity to visit you at this period which is so significant for peace and stability in this region, whose peace and stability affect peace and balance in the world."

"Your experience and political weight are an important element in this respect... My country, which has always defended just Arab causes, reiterates its determination to exert every constructive effort that is necessary in this direction."

King Hussein replied saying that it had been a pleasure and an honour to receive his two royal guests.

"We take pride in Spain's friendship with the Arab World. This feeling, understanding and support did not come to us by accident -- it had its inception in understanding of the circumstances of this region of the globe. It arose in friends who believe in justice, peace, sovereignty and a better future for our two peoples."

"We take pride in the ties which exist between us and we look with resolve for closer cooperation in the future in quest of our joint objectives and aspirations."

The Spanish monarch returns home Saturday.

Arab F.M.s expected to renew mandate of peace force in Lebanon

CAIRO, March 25 (R). — Arab foreign ministers are expected to extend the mandate of the Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon at a meeting beginning here tomorrow, informed sources said today. The decision will be taken at a regular session of the Arab League Council which meets twice a year.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fuad Boutros has requested a six-month extension of the mandate which runs out on March 31, league officials said.

Another topic will be a request from the Palestine Liberation Organisation for continued help for Arabs in Israeli-occupied territories.

The general themes of the meeting, expected to last a week, are political and economic coordination and Arab-African cooperation.

The ministers will discuss an allocation of \$15 million for studies of joint economic projects between Arab states and the European Common Market.

Indian Cabinet formed

DELHI, March 25 (AFP). — India's ruling Janata Party tonight succeeded in forming a new cabinet under Minister Morarji Desai.

20-man cabinet is composed of Prime Minister Desai, 14 ministers, two Congress Democrats, one member of the Akali Sikh Community Party of Punjab.

Other Congress for De-government member, Mr. Ram is Hemwati Bahuguna.

included in the team is Fernandes 46-year-old leader of the Socialist who successfully ran for

ment from prison on the ticket.

Fernandes, imprisoned Mrs. Gandhi's state of emergency, was set free a few days ago.

man who beat Mrs. Gandhi's own Raj Narain, is a member of the Akali

Narain, a member of the Congress party, was beaten by Mrs. Gandhi in the 1971 poll.

une 1975, the Allahabad court ruled in favour of Gandhi's protest against irregularities by the prime minister, but two days later, on June 25, Mrs. Gandhi announced a state of emergency.

Supreme court later reversed high court's decision.



His first full day on the job, India's new Prime Minister Morarji Desai greets his personal staff and news-Parliament House Friday morning. Desai, 61, was sworn in as India's 4th prime minister Thursday afternoon. (rephoto).

But U.S., Britain split over which plane to buy NATO defence ministers agree to go ahead with flying radar stations

BRUSSELS, March 25 (R). — NATO defence ministers today agreed to go ahead with a plan to establish a fleet of flying radar stations to guard West European skies.

But the ministers could not break the deadlock over how to share out the \$2.4 billion cost of the American system, which is based on 27 Boeing 707's equipped with sophisticated radars and electronics.

The fleet will be used to look deep into Eastern Europe to see if any surprise Soviet air attack is imminent.

The meeting ended amid fears that Britain, which is scheduled to put some \$450 million into the programme, would pull out of the plan and instead buy improved versions of its own Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft for national purposes.

Informed sources said British Minister Fred Mulley was disappointed at the result of the meeting.

They said Mr. Mulley's colleagues turned down his suggestion that the flying radar fleet be composed of both Boeings and Nimrods.

Britain had imposed an April 1 deadline for a joint alliance decision, threatening to go it alone with the Nimrod to replace its ageing Shackleton aircraft.

A communique issued after the meeting today said that the governments "will take all possible steps to establish an agreed cooperative programme by July 1 1977."

It also said that Mr. Mulley "while endorsing fully the importance of the provision of an early warning system for the alliance as a whole on the basis of the collective decision and common funding, reserves the position of his government as to the best way his government could make its contribution."

This was interpreted here as an effort by Mr. Mulley to keep the Nimrod in the running for a two-plane system.

The communique said that the alliance countries would work out details of cost sharing quickly.

The sources said Mr. Mulley would report to the British cabinet on the meeting here. A

governmental decision must be taken before the end of the month on whether to continue funding development of the Nimrod, which could fulfill NATO's early warning requirements over water but not over land.

U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown told reporters that he had increased the U.S. contribution to the fleet, known

as the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), by five per cent to 33 per cent of the \$2.4 billion total.

But he told a news conference that he was set against a two-plane fleet.

"I believe it is important politically for the United States to agree on a single programme and this is best handled with a single system," he said.

Chirac officially takes over as mayor of Paris

PARIS, March 25 (Agencies). — Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac was elected mayor of Paris today, strengthening his campaign to oust President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing as head of France's anti-left forces.

M. Chirac is the first mayor the French capital has had in a century.

He moves into the city hall following the victory of the Gaullist-centrist coalition in municipal elections in Paris, which ran counter to the left victory in the rest of the country. The coalition returned 69 city councillors, the left 40. In today's vote M. Chirac polled 67 votes while Communist contender Henri Fiszbin polled, as expected, the votes of the 40 opposition councillors.

M. Chirac had been assured in advance of winning the vote after defeating the president's hand-picked candidate, Michel d'Ornano, in last week's elections.

The Gaullist leader will wield great political influence in his new office, which controls a budget of 7,000 million francs (£800 million) and is ranked third in power behind the presidency and the premiership.

The post will serve as a springboard for M. Chirac's efforts to repel the challenge from France's socialist-Communist alliance in general elections next March.

He has expressed doubt about President Giscard d'Estaing's

determination to stem the left-wing challenge, and sees himself as the best man to lead the campaign.

Ironically, it was the president who supported the reform which led to the installation of a mayor.

SECRETARY IMMEDIATE VACANCIES

If you are a single female, fluent in English with courses in English and Arabic typing and three years experience, looking for better opportunities.

We will offer you, free housing, medical and life insurance, recreational facilities, one month vacation and a salary of approx. 200 J.D.'s per month.

PLEASE CALL OR VISIT US AT:

Grand Palace Hotel
Tel. 61121 - 61122, Amman, Jordan.

Whittaker Corp.

LIFE SCIENCE GROUP

WANTED

Opportunities exist in Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A., King Hussein Street, Amman, in officers' grade for energetic and competent university graduates with following background:

1. Nationality : Jordanian.
2. Age : 25/30 years.
3. Experience : Candidates having five years banking experience as an officer will be given preference.
4. Applicants must have fluency in English.

Please call on us on working days during office hours for preliminary interview with testimonials and application, written in your own hand-writing. Salary according to qualifications and experience. Last date of interview : April 5, 1977.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Bank of Credit & Commerce, P.O. Box No. 7943, King Hussein Street, Amman, requires personnel to fill vacancies for typists, clerks, cashiers and secretaries. Young, energetic and pleasant persons may apply immediately in English giving their educational qualifications, experience and family background etc. They may be called for a formal interview without any obligations on the bank's part.

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily
published by the Jordan Press Foundation

Managing Editor:
Jasab Tutunji

Board of Directors:

Deputy Managing Editor:
Bassam Bishuti

James A. Harman
Mohamed Amal
Mahmoud Al Kayed
Responsible Editor:
Mohamed Amal

Editorial and Advertising Offices:

JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION

University Road - P.O. Box 6410 - Amman, Jordan

Tel: 67171/2/3/4 - Cable: JORTIMES - Telex: 1407 (AL 260)

Mr Ball talks sense

Former U.S. Undersecretary of State George Ball has written an article in the current issue of *Foreign Affairs* magazine that brings to bear upon the Middle East what we believe is an example of honest and rational thinking by an outside party. The thesis Mr. Ball puts forth is that the United States should assume "a key role" in mediating or prodding an Arab-Israeli peace because the absence of peace will inevitably mean the disastrous resumption of war, with all the negative implications of war for the international economic picture and world peace.

His article, entitled "How to Save Israel in Spite of Herself," rests on the basics of Resolution 242, which he interprets to mean the withdrawal of Israel from all territories occupied in 1967, the establishment of a Palestinian state and the drawing up of recognised borders. All in all, his basic approach, similar to that of the famous Brookings Institution study, calls for the acceptance of Israeli and Palestinian nationalism in different parts of Palestine. That principle, in one form or another, has been accepted by the Arabs and the Palestinians. What the Arabs are holding out for is the proper negotiating forum within which they will slice up the Palestinian land with Israel in a manner than is deemed satisfactory to all. This cannot happen until the Israelis make the parallel acceptance of the principle of dual Israeli-Palestinian nationalism in Palestine. The Israelis refuse to do this, and the cutting edge of their refusal is their inability to deal with the Palestinians as a national force. It is a deeply telling psychological fact that the Israelis always refer to someone like Yasser Arafat as "the terrorist leader", or to the armed Palestinians in Lebanon as "the terrorist forces". Not only are the Israelis unable to deal with Palestine. They cannot even say the word.

The interesting thing in Mr. Ball's article is that he presents what most neutral observers will view as an eminently rational and fair approach to the subject. He roams in the fields of the possible and the great middle ground. And he is brought to his position by the weight of the process by which, he says, the United States last year gave Israel aid in the amount of some \$700 for every Israeli man, woman and child. He asks: "How much longer should we go on subsidising a stalemate that is manifestly untenable for all concerned?"

This is a question the Israelis have always feared answering, as they have always avoided learning how to say "Palestine". Mr. Ball talks sense, which is why the Israelis will attack him severely.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Two Jordanian dailies commented in their Friday editorials on the current visit by His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain to Jordan and praised the relations existing between the two leaders and their countries, while a third daily discussed the differences of opinion relevant to the settlement of the Middle East conflict existing between the United States and Russia as outlined by Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev in his recent address to the communist workers' syndicates.

AL RA'I, says that Arab-Spanish relations have in common the desire for a better future to be governed by justice, peace and freedom. These ideals have more of a chance of being realised under the young leadership of their Majesties King Hussein and King Juan Carlos, as they are reputed for their courage, wisdom and allegiance to their respective countries.

Spain has opposed Zionist pressures disguised as international socialism all along while in support of the Arab cause in Palestine, the paper added. This position has not changed with the accession of King Juan Carlos to power. Modern Spain has inaugurated an era of democracy under the leadership of its new young king and it continues in supporting the Arab cause.

AL SHA'B says that the warm welcome the Spanish royal couple received on the official and popular levels is but an indicator of the strong relations existing between the two leaders and their peoples and of Jordan's esteem for the Spanish stand in support of the Arab cause. Jordan and Spain are linked by friendly relations based on the historical heritage common to both Spain and the Arab World. These relations have grown steadily between Jordan and Spain.

So it is not strange for Spain to have supported all along the Arab cause and to have condemned the Israeli expansionist policy, as Spain by adopting that position remains true to its heritage as being famous for its humane stands.

We hope, the paper concluded,

ded, that the present visit will contribute to the development of friendly relations between Spain and Jordan in particular and between Spain and the Arab World in general. It is a new platform from which tighter relations can be built and closer cooperation achieved for the benefit of the two countries.

AL DUSTOUR, under the heading "Brezhnev's thoughts and Carter's," says that it is not a coincidence that Mr. Brezhnev's ideas on how to settle the Middle East crisis were disclosed only days after Mr. Carter spoke on the same issue and only a few weeks before the projected talks to be held in Washington between President Carter and Arab leaders.

Mr. Brezhnev's ideas are not meant to be just a reminder of the Soviet role in a peace settlement but to imply that agreement on a number of essential points does exist between the two superpowers -- the guarantee of Israel's existence, and the right for the Palestinians to set up their own state and the normalisation of relations between the Arabs and Israel -- in spite of the existence of differences on the details of the implementation of the peace settlement and the order of priorities.

These differences, the paper added, will be the topic for discussion during the meeting between President Carter and Arab leaders coming up in Washington. And they could constitute the agenda for the Geneva Middle East peace conference if it ever convenes.

However, we should caution against the persistence of these differences between the United States and the Soviet Union which only give Israel the pretext for new manoeuvres and prevent the two superpowers from adopting measures to oblige Israel to implement the United Nations resolutions.

The Arabs, who are convinced that discussions of the situation should not be made futile just because of the existence of these differences, should work, relying upon themselves, to ensure the restoration of their spoiled rights, the paper concluded.



"The Russians will love it!"

Angolan-South African border opens briefly for parley over prisoners

OSHIKANGO Frontier Post, Angola, March 25 (R). — For 37 minutes, the frontier between black- and white-ruled Africa opened and two sworn enemies in the continent's bitter conflict parleyed.

But the encounter between the troops of white-ruled South Africa, stationed on the Namibian (South West African) side of the border, and those of Marxist Angola was cold, curt and correct.

Before the frontier reclosed with the clank of steel chain against padlock on the barbed wire fence, there were no handshakes. The pit of mistrust and confrontation was as deep as ever.

The meeting took place on March 5. It covered the return of two dozen Angolan workers who had been on contracts in Namibian diamond and copper mines, and the possibility of a letter exchange between prisoners of the two sides.

The officers, who spoke through an interpreter, were flanked by armed troops. Back from the boundary line, both sides had reinforcements standing by, apparently in case the discussion across the frontier warmed up.

The bullet-scarred frontier post here straddles one of Africa's potential flashpoints.

Dr. Agostinho Neto's Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), aided by Cuban troops, defeated other movements in the country's devastating civil war. South Africa backed one of the losers, UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), and sent in an armoured column to support it.

Just about a year ago, the South Africans withdrew, halting at sandbagged positions visible from this side of the border. But there is no confidence among MPLA officials here that South Africa will refrain from further incursions into Angola.

A senior MPLA official here provided the following list of alleged frontier violations by the South Africans this year: Dec 31/Jan 1 -- at Chitudo frontier post to the west, MPLA troops reply to South African rifle fire. The South Africans later apologise, saying a drunken soldier opened up to start the exchange of fire.

Feb 7 -- east of here, South Africans cut the frontier wire and enter Angola to steal cattle, presumably to feed troops.

Feb 12 -- at Caluque, a South African light plane overflies the area.

Feb 13 -- on two occasions, South African light aircraft fly over the provincial capital of N'giva, 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of here.

Feb 14 -- east of here, a water-pumping machine is dynamited in the Dombondola area, South Africans burn down 60 houses and kill eight civilians.

Feb 16 -- at the frontier post here, South Africans open fire with light machine guns, grenades and rifles. MPLA troops return the fire with intensity. South Africans vacate the frontier post under fire and return only on February 21. On February 17 a South African broadcast heard here said the fighting was caused by SWAPO (South West Africa Peoples

Organisation), a Namibian liberation movement based in southern Angola, attacking the MPLA post.

While there was no confirmation of these allegations, a South African officer, asked about frontier violations, shrugged and said: "It happens both ways."

Left-wing analysts in Angola argue that South Africa wanted to install a sympathetic UNITA government in Angola to retain access to vast diamond, oil and mineral riches and stave off the threat to its interests posed by the advance of black African Marxism.

Had they succeeded, these analysts say, the whole course of events in southern Africa would have changed in South Africa's favour.

MPLA officials said South Africa was continuing to support UNITA guerrillas infiltrating into southern Angola in order to create unrest and provide a pretext for a continued South African military presence in Namibia.

The conflict deepens with Angola's commitment to black rule in Namibia and South Africa itself. With Soviet and Cuban help, the Angolans are building what could become one of the strongest conventional armies along the "front-line" of black Africa facing the white-ruled south.

South Africa at present has the most powerful military machine in the white-ruled south. Angola stands committed to supporting SWAPO which wants to eject South Africa from Namibia, adding a further element to the conflict.

Considering the stakes, and the emotional tension at this point of confrontation between the ideologies of east and west, the conversation at the frontier on March 5 was remarkably correct in tone.

The dialogue went in part like this: South African officer: Can you tell us what the reason for this discussion is?

MPLA officer: We do not know because we were not here earlier. We are here to receive the workers.

S.A.: At the last discussion they (other Angolans) promised to bring some letters down from the prison camp in Luanda (South Africa says there are eight South African prisoners in Angola).

MPLA: The time you came with letters, you did not want to talk to them. The time after, the comrade with the letters had already gone.

S.A.: What day was this?

MPLA: It was last Wednesday.

S.A.: That's right. There was some dispute between their troops and our troops.

MPLA: The comrade who has got the letters has gone back to Luanda.

The discussion was continued later by khaki-clad junior officers. The two sides parted on the promise to talk again on March 15, with both saying they would try to have letters from prisoners ready on time. Immediately afterwards the Angolans from Namibia began trooping across the border. With them, they brought a bewildering array of goods, including bicycles, hoes,

Absurdity's loophole

By Bassam Bishuti

Sanjay Gandhi's looped strings

Up until the end of last week the vast majority of the numberless people of India had been labouring under an absurdity but, as in every good fairy tale, a prince charming called Mr. Sanjay Gandhi galloped into their lives with a loophole in his hand which tore the absurdity apart. In India, now, everything is unabsurd again.

If the absurd is that which consists of unrelated, orderless events such that things happen without design or purpose, then when some particular event takes place which, in retrospect, appears to have been vitally necessary, coming just in time and leads the previous, orderless series of events to an overall, coherent conclusion, this particular event could only be seen as a loophole in the absurd. This is so because as long as we are going to insist on describing our world as accident-prone and thus, absurd, anything that happens when it ought to happen in order to make the world meaningful and worth inhabiting can only be seen as a loophole in the absurd. Thus Mr. Sanjay Gandhi.

Mr. Sanjay's mamma, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, daughter of the great, the late Jawaharlal Nehru, had been Prime Minister of India since 1966. She had been leader of the ruling Congress Party which "never lost an election since independence" from Britain in 1947. Thanks to last week's loophole of an election Mrs. Gandhi is prime minister no longer, her traditional parliamentary seat is hers no longer and the Congress Party has finally set the record: It has lost an election.

In the previous elections of 1971 Mrs. Gandhi had fought for the representation of the Rae Bareilly constituency against a Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan. When the results of those elections were announced, people were told that Mrs. Gandhi had won the seat and Mr. Narayan had lost it. Mr. Narayan, an undaunted fellow, raised a court case accusing Mrs. Gandhi of "rigging" the election. The case seems to have dragged on until in June, 1975, the Allahabad High Court found Mrs. Indira Gandhi, daughter of the great, the late Jawaharlal Nehru, guilty of election "malpractices". Days later, Mrs. Gandhi, herself undaunted, declared a state of emergency throughout the nation. She thrust Mr. Narayan and thousands of other political foes into prison, amended the constitution whereby, among other things, courts of law were no longer authorised to handle cases of offences against the rights of citizens. The Supreme Court -- "cleaned" out of "corrupt" judges -- then dutifully reversed the high court's decision. Mrs. Gandhi was thereby legally a democratically-elected representative of the people.

But Mrs. Gandhi was not satisfied. She did not reverse her own decision of placing Indians under a state of emergency. Companions were allowed to those already in prison. The press was censored by a censor. And citizens were pampered with surprise, all-inclusive, package-tours to prison: The surprise consisted in not telling them where they're going and not telling them why they're going where they're going.

Mrs. Gandhi then allowed her youngest, and most spoilt, son Mr. Sanjay Gandhi -- grandson of the great, the late Jawaharlal Nehru -- to rise up to a supreme place in the hierarchy of Indian politics.

Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, the hero of this fairy tale, is a prince charming whose age is not accurately afforded to use -- mere mortals --

news agencies can never decide whether he's 30 or 31. But we have all been allowed to know that he is a failure of an engineer. Money had sent him to study the craft in the U.S.A. and he seems to have become possessed of a great passion -- his greatest, until destiny called him recently to the role of loophole provider. He wanted above all to manufacture an Indian automobile. Money, again, gave him a factory and connections, and disaster followed. India never got an automobile but it got an ambitious politician.

Money and connections can do a world of good -- if the world is the world of big business. Mr. Sanjay Gandhi traded his passion: He now shafts become the political representative of big business in Indian politics.

Mr. Sanjay Gandhi conceived a series of great ideas for India. Because there is overpopulation vasectomise as many Indians as you can. Go to their villages, bound them into buses, take them to make-shift laboratories and there ensure they will never have children again. In order to save on time and on medical supplies, be sure to give every vasectomised person a certificate declaring him an initiate of the mysteries of impotence. Rich Indians can be allowed to buy their certificates so that medical supplies are not wasted on them -- money buys heaven even on earth.

Because the slums of India are dirty, you move people elsewhere: You hound them, again into buses and take them where you will. What are a few stones thrown at your henchmen by angry mobs of unimaginative sods who will not leave the sod where they were born? Because some elder statesman, one Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Agriculture and for ages a close confidant of mamma, makes a fuss in the cabinet about your mangling of Indian democracy, you pull enough strings and the man is forced to resign and go into opposition.

Because people around town are heard to gossip that you are able to do what you are doing because the strings you pull are mamma's own apron strings, you decide to silence them by becoming a democratically-elected representative of the people. You go to mamma and say: "How can we accept that our rival in Pakistan, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, is staging free and democratic elections while we are constantly being accused of ruling by decree and constitutional amendments? We must have an election!" Mamma, of course, will not let her arch-rival Pakistani be seen as anywhere near being more democratic than her, so she calls for an election. You campaign vigorously for a seat in parliament promising democracy for the people. You do not pay attention to what ex-Minister Jagjivan Ram is telling these people that between you and mamma India is a dictatorship of "one-and-a-half persons" -- you being the half, since if your age is somewhere around 30, mamma is around 60.

That far, the one-and-a-half trail of recent Indian politics had been a gloriously-lubricated and smooth-running absurdity -- it worked like everything else in the world. But prince charming just had to gallop forth on that trail carrying with him to the sleeping princess a loop hole. She awakens with a start, and lo and behold! The spell of the absurdity is broken apart. Princess India is free again.

If you want power don't give people the vote. But if you must keep up with you Pakistani josses and have for yourself a similar merry little electric life, then, at least, stay normally absurd; don't offer loopholes.



'Now, take the TriStar non-stop to London!

FROM 1st APRIL NON-STOP
TRISTAR AT 12.15 EVERY SUNDAY & TUESDAY
NON-STOP VC 10s AT 13.05
EVERY THURSDAY & SATURDAY

And always that same warm welcome.
It's nice to have you with us.

British
airways

We'll take more care of you.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

is temporarily on page 4

هكذا صحت الاشغال

King Carlos and Queen Sophia visit military installations



visiting king and queen of Spain paid visits to all units of the Armed Forces with His Majesty Hussein Thursday. They attended military training exercises by the Royal Guards Regiment, which presented them with its shield after the display (photos above). Carlos also inspected several armoured units, he looked over the weaponry at their disposal (as below).



New ArabAir director to boost aviation

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan's aviation industry is due for a boost with the recent appointment of a new managing director of Middle East marketing for ArabAir Services Corporation Ltd.

Chairman Najeeb Halaby recently announced the appointment of W. Douglas McLean to fill this post at ArabAir's Amman offices.

In his new post with ArabAir Services, Mr. McLean will manage the construction of a new flight simulator building for Alla, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and the first phase construction of the proposed Arab Air University here. He will also be responsible for all marketing and new business activities for ArabAir throughout the Middle East, as well as administering all of ArabAir's services in the area.

Mr. McLean, who has had a long and distinguished career in the construction industry, will be managing the Middle East sales and service activities of ArabAir Services, which is an American and Arab owned civil aviation services company organised to assist Arab state airlines and civil aviation departments modernise their aviation activities in the Middle East region.

Throughout most of his career, Mr. McLean has been involved in construction management, and has extensive experience in the areas of contract negotiations, financial and schedule obligations for complex projects, labour relations and contract administration.

Among the projects he has managed in his career have been the construction of a World Fair exhibit for Chrysler Corporation; a \$25 million plant expansion and renovation programme for Westinghouse Air Brake; and a \$30 million computer facility for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service's North Atlantic Region.



Mr. W. Douglas McLean.

aircraft; and he has prepared programmes for various airline-related facilities such as commissaries, warehouses, hangars and passenger terminals.

A graduate of Lehigh University (B.S. civil engineering, 1948), Mr. McLean is a registered professional engineer in a number of states, including New York. He is also a member of Tau Beta Pi, American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, and New York State Society of Professional Engineers, and holds a certificate from the National Council for State Boards of Engineering Examiners.

ArabAir Services, with offices in the United States and the Middle East, is currently active in data processing, airport construction, logistics support, training and management services.

ArabAir Chairman Najeeb Halaby is the former Chairman of Pan American World Airways, and was Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

Mr. McLean has also managed a number of airport construction projects, including the recently completed general aviation facilities for New York State's Metropolitan Transportation Authority at Republic Airport; renovation of Pan Am's hangar facility at New York's Kennedy International to handle the 747 wide-body

Amman park named after King Carlos

AMMAN (J.T.). — Amman Municipal Council Thursday decided to name Al Luweiddeh Park in Amman after His Majesty King Juan Carlos as a token of appreciation for the Spanish monarch's support of Arab causes.

NOV. '76 TRANSIT GOODS TRIPLE IN VALUE

AMMAN (JNA). — The value of goods in transit through Jordan more than tripled in November 1976 compared with the same month in 1975, a Department of Statistics release said Thursday.

The value of transit goods in November 1976 reached JD 64,016,000 against JD 18,649,000 in November 1975.

The value of re-exported goods in November 1976 reached JD 3,050,000 as against JD 750,000 in the same month in 1975.

Cooperative head meets directors

AMMAN (JNA). — Director General of the Jordanian Cooperative Organisation Marwan Doudin Thursday met with directors of cooperative societies. He stressed the importance of directors assuming their responsibilities for developing their district and increasing agricultural and animal production in accordance with the five-year plan.

Mr. Doudin was winding up a six-day cooperative course arranged by the organisation's training centre.

He said cooperative officials should translate the results of the course into practice so that more courses can be held.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	572.0	578.0
U.S. dollar	332.0	334.0
German mark	139.4	139.8
French franc	66.9	67.2
Swiss franc	131.0	131.4
Italian lira		
(for every 100)	37.5	37.7
Saudi riyal	32.8	34.0
Lebanese pound	109.9	110.1
Syrian pound	82.0	82.2
Iraqi dinar	946.0	950.0
Kuwaiti pound	464.0	470.0
Libyan dinar	805.0	815.0
UAE dirham	85.0	85.5

Zajal: Lebanon's duel of words and poetry

By Irene Ramadan
Special to the Jordan Times

Poetry is almost an Arab instinct. Centuries ago, several hundred Arab poets would gather in the famous Souk of Ukaz in the Hijaz to compete with each other using their poetic talents.

And people would come from everywhere to hear these illustrious men pompously reciting their poetry, which was always either glorifying or attacking in nature.

This poetic parade has kept its vitality throughout the ages, taking on different aspects according to the customs of each Arab country. In Lebanon, called zajal, has recently taken on a popular percussive character, which has earned it a considerable reputation all over the Arab World. The word zajal comes from the word sijal, which means attack and counter-attack. It consists mainly of an improvised poetic and rhythmic dialogue between two, three or four persons.

VERSIFYING ON THE SPOT

A week ago, three Lebanese poets gave a show of zajal at the home of minister of culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf. That evening was, in a way, a rehearsal: The group is invited to perform on Jordan Television for King Hussein's Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Using the colloquial Arab language, the three artists — Ahmad Al Sayed, Nazih Saab and Nawaf Hamoud — made the audience rediscover the ingenious way of versifying on the spot. In fact, in the zajal one person starts by reciting a small poem. Once he finishes the last word, his partner immediately replies in verse, re-



Three zajal poets engage in a duel of intellectual ingenuity.

turning the ball as in a tennis match.

This kind of literary event is varied and colourful. It ranges from eulogies to tit-for-tat attacks, passing through biting, humorous satire. To express their ideas, the artists use a style full of imagery. They can be grandiloquent and emphatic as well as down-to-earth and madly amusing.

WORDS AS WEAPONS

Their inspiration goes very far and always in a clever way. They never fail to astonish their audience when they play with symbols and associations. They made a great impact when they pointed out the eternal modernity of the famous precept of Socrates: "Know well yourself". Another of their bravuras was their reference to Adam — both the father and

the husband — when they spoke, in a jesting tone, about women's lib. They said: "Made by one of Adam's ribs, Eve can never get rid of him."

The excellent moment of a zajal session comes when the poets start their verbal duel. Their only weapons are words, phraseology and ideas. But in this kind of artistic experience, they crystallise and stimulate their deep and spontaneous talent. This popular version of the Arab school of poetry is not far from the rules of a game. Because it is an intellectual game based on words and phraseology, as well as meaning and undertones, it requires imagination, inspiration and vision.

The zajal is a knack. Either you have it or you don't. And most of the time it is passed on from father to son.

FOR SALE

MERCEDES 220/8

In excellent condition. Beige colour, sun roof.

Price JD 800. Duty unpaid.

Contact 61589, between 5-6 p.m.

WELLTEX

KEEP YOU WAY AHEAD OF OTHERS

We are a leading manufacturer/exporter in Hong Kong and Macao, handling most kinds of general merchandise, such as garments, knitwear, toys, dolls, stationery, porcelain-ware, household goods, etc., at competitive prices and prompt delivery. We are looking for agents in Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Dubai. Our principal will visit the Middle East in May. Please contact us now:

WELLTEX INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
Rm. 403, Chiu Bank Bldg., 80 Des Voeux Rd., C., Hong Kong. G.P.O. Box 9269, Hong Kong. Cable: 7974

WELLTEX INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE
Rm. 501, Tai Fung Bank Bldg., 32, Ave. Almeida Ribeiro, Macao. G.P.O. Box 687, Macao (Portugal-Asia). Cable: WELLTEX Macao.

AMMAN MARKETPLACE

SS Scandinavian Show Room
The luxury furniture for every taste and pocket.
Old Damascus Street - Tel. 63800
P.O. Box 2930 - Amman - Jordan

AD-DAR
FOR THE MOST PRACTICAL AND LUXURIOUS FURNITURE.
WE ALSO CARRY A WIDE VARIETY OF THE MOST CONTEMPORARY LIGHTING.
P.O. Box 2930, Amman - Jordan

INDIANIA
Our fine products made by experienced Finnish craftsmen include the following:
• Furniture for the home and office.
• Ceramic dishes and tableware.
• Handcrafted jewelry.
2nd Circle, Jabal Amman, next to New Insurance Bldg., Tel. 4200

THE FLYING CARPET CLUB
opens for lunch an elegant oriental BUFFET
TEL: 62181 AMMAN

baba in RESTAURANT
Wine and dine with your family and friends, in our European relaxing atmosphere while enjoying our famous cuisine.
REASONABLE PRICES FULLY CONDITIONED
JABAL AMMAN - 2nd Circle - TEL. 4205

NEW BAND AT LE CESAR Restaurants & Nightclub
Enjoy our superb Oriental and European cookery.
For reservations call 24421
Jabal El Weibdeh - Amman

SILVER MARKET
OUR SUPERMARKET BOASTS A LARGE VARIETY OF THE FINEST IMPORTED FOODS.
WE ALSO HAVE HOME DELIVERY SERVICE.
JABAL AMMAN, 5th Circle TEL. 42021

PATCHI CONFECTIONERY GIFTS BONBONNIERES
JABAL AMMAN, WADI ESSER ST. TEL. 42010
JABAL HUSSEIN, INDEPENDENCE RD. TEL. 3550

To advertise in this section
phone 67871-2-3

JORDAN EXPRESS CO.
TRAVEL TOURISM PACKING FREIGHT FORWARDING TRANSIT INSURANCE
WORLD WIDE SERVICES
KING HUSSEIN ST. TEL. 42776 & 42782, P.O. Box 2930 AMMAN - JORDAN

AVIS
AIRPORT 56347 AMMAN 41350 - 44355
For: SHIPPING TRAVEL & TOURISM INSURANCE
Please Contact: AMIN KAHNAR & SONS
Travel & Tourist Agency
P.O. Box 222, AMMAN TEL. - 22324-9
TELEX 122 & 1520

SATELLITE RENT-A-CAR
BRAND NEW 1977 MODELS
TEL. 25767

Bouquet
تلفون 17420 - صالون الاقلام
SHMESSANY ST. TEL. 67820
AMMAN - JORDAN

TALAL AGRICULTURE CO.
Gardening contractors. All kinds of flowers for all occasions. Decorative plants for indoors & outdoors imported from Italy & Holland. Plastic vessels.
KING HUSSEIN ST. - TEL. 6597 - AMMAN

EYES EXAMINED CONTACT LENSES (Hard & Soft)
OPTIKOS SHAMI O.D.
The best Ever Made in Optic
Jordan Intercontinental Hotel Tel. 42043

To advertise in this section
phone 67871-2-3

Imperial Copier Systems
VARIOUS MODELS TO SUIT ALL OF YOUR COPYING NEEDS: Plain paper - Magna dry & Electrostatic at
NAIM S. EL FAR & CO.
Wadi Esser St. P.O. Box 291 Tel. 41000, 22895

Save Time & Money at CASH AND CARRY supermarket
Household Articles, Groceries, Toys, Stationery, Canned Food, etc.
OPEN DAILY 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM
AMMAN, KING HUSSEIN ST. Opp. Army H.Q. TEL. 42071

Geneva talks begin on Common Fund to stabilise commodity earnings

Last May at UNCTAD 4 in Nairobi the developed countries relented a little in their resistance to the idea of a common fund for commodities. They agreed to a meeting on the subject being held in Geneva in 1977. These talks have now begun. At the same time attempts are being made in Paris to get the so-called North-South Dialogue going again.

LONDON (Gemini) — One of the United Nations' longest-running melodramas is now under way again in Geneva — the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

This time there is only one item on the three-week agenda. Delegates are wrestling with the pros and cons of a Common Fund, aimed at stabilising commodity earnings. Despite some optimism that President Carter is looking on commodity agreements with more favour than his predecessor, the omens for a successful meeting are not good.

The Common Fund was the most concrete achievement of the Fourth UNCTAD held last May in Nairobi. It was also the most complex and least understood. About 10 months after the Nairobi shindig, economists still argue over it and politicians still pursue it through a minefield of clauses, commas and interpretations.

And at a more gut political level, developed and developing blocks still appear at odds about the necessity, feasibility, or even wisdom of such an institution.

Why? First, because of a profound difference of opinion over the ills which the fund would hopefully cure. To the developing countries, many of which depend on single commodities for up to 90 per cent of their export earnings, the problem can be summed up as fluctuating prices and falling earnings because of inflation which has hit manufacturers needed to be imported from the West.

The solution proposed at Nairobi by UNCTAD Secretariat was for a series of stocks of key commodities which

would be bought up and used to dampen down or stimulate the prices as required, by increasing, or reducing the amounts available on the open market.

These stocks and their individual funds would need financing, and UNCTAD proposed that a "Common Fund" of \$6 billion should be made available to help with them.

The first instalment would be \$1 billion, and the principle of payment would be contributions from producers and consumers in proportion of their share of trade in the commodities.

Under one formula, which split the initial share between exporters and importers 50-50, Brazil (which comes top of the list of exporters, with 9.4 per cent of the 10 core commodities) would thus contribute 9.4 per cent of 500 million dollars — that is 47 million dollars.

In the other column, the U.S., which imports 17.5 per cent of all the core commodity imports, would contribute 17.5 per cent of the other 500 million dollars — that is 87.5 million dollars.

It seems the fairest way to pay for something which would benefit producers and consumers alike, (both of which suffer from unstable supplies and prices). But at Nairobi the proposal for a Common Fund ran into a fusillade of opposition from industrialised nations.

Eventually they agreed to let Gambia, the Sri Lanka Secretary General of UNCTAD, convene meetings on individual commodities starting in September. The meetings would be interrupted by two negotiating conferences on the vexed issue of the Common Fund, in November and March.

It seems straight forward. But it is not.

On the eve of the Geneva Conference, three crucial areas were still unresolved.

First there is uncertainty about the aims of the fund. Is it a passive fund for individual stocks to be drawn on where necessary, or an active fund which would actually intervene to raise or lower prices?

The one role would be relatively innocuous. But the other would carry with it enormous potential to effect markets. Gambia, the Secretary General of UNCTAD, seems to plump for an interventionist role when he talks of a "catalytic" fund. And Western hackles rise.

Second, are the aims of the fund to go wider than merely financing stocks — to help, for example, exporters diversify out of dependence upon single commodities and restructure their economies?

If so, then far more money than 6 billion dollars would be involved, and it begins to look very much like a special aid fund and not something which is mutually financed by producers and consumers of raw materials. It has been recently revealed that some countries of the Third World — notably India — insisted that the fund had these wider objectives in Nairobi because they import almost as much as they export. But this is news — bad news — for the West.

Third, what kind of voting control and management would the fund have? In Nairobi, the U.S. expressed concern that a fund would lead to an "unacceptable shift of control" over commodity trade from consumers to producers.

The way the fund would be managed is crucial. But as with all institutions the door is wide open to manipulation and block control. If voting power of producers and consumers reflects their contributions to the fund, then developed countries will apparently outvote the developing.

This has only recently been

worked out, but it is the last thing that UNCTAD wants, because the whole point of the fund is that it would avoid the Western domination of institutions like the IMF and World Bank. Any other formula, however, could very well look "cooked" to jaundiced Western eyes.

The UNCTAD Secretariat has been caught squarely in the cross-fire from these uncertainties. Since Nairobi, the developing countries have been getting increasingly restless at UNCTAD's apparent inability to carry the fight to the enemy. The industrialised countries for their part chide Gambia, the Secretary General, and his staff for not doing their homework and see the grey areas as justification for sticking to their "case-by-case" approach.

The Western non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which lobbied furiously for the fund in Nairobi, complain that UNCTAD has been slow in hiring staff, in covering its flanks from the shipping, and in getting big names on a visible short list as possible heads of the fund (which could conceivably rival the World Bank and IMF in importance).

At the end of 1976, Korea applied plaintively to these criticisms by pointing out that UNCTAD is not really empowered to argue with anyone, let alone aggressively, and that its credibility as an objective forum for negotiations would be jeopardised if Western doubters thought he was trying to hard-sell his fund.

All very well, but the fact remains that UNCTAD effectively threw down the gauntlet with its Nairobi proposals, and is already closely associated with the developing world (it is the only U.N. agency set up on the initiative of the developing countries).

The Common Fund, after its endorsement at the meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Colombo last August is more politically "hot" than ever. And Korea knows it. But he is

cautious not to antagonise any one further and bides his time, pointing out that at least the Nairobi timetable is being adhered to.

But one look at the first item on that timetable — the copper talks which finished in Geneva on October 1 — starkly illustrates the different objectives of the developing and developed blocs. Concrete action towards restructuring the world's trade system on the one hand, with the Common Fund playing a leading role, and merely continuing the dialogue on the other, with the fund little more than a passenger (and even maybe a non-paying one at that).

Agreement was reached on the need to continue the copper talks — as one might expect. But several of the Western delegations made a determined attempt to have them taken out of the UNCTAD programme and consigned to the kind of limbo which is normally termed "intergovernmental discussions". The strategy was transparent. Left without any commodity "agreements" to support, the Common Fund would be about as significant as a king without any clothes.

In the end, after furious argument between Chile, which supported the proposal on the urging of the U.S., and Peru, which strongly opposed it, the UNCTAD programme was revived. The continuing

copper dialogue remained within UNCTAD and Chile remains within the Group of 77. Which is just as well for both.

But the assault left a bitter taste in the mouth for some. UNCTAD officials saw it as just another attempt to emasculate further their already truncated programme and drew the obvious conclusion that no place exists for their outfit within the "case by case" approach to commodities.

Furthermore, the Western importers undoubtedly inflicted a defeat in the nature of the follow-up talks on copper that are now being held. They have been given as vague a brief as they could be.

Because of the lack of progress towards a copper stock and their inconclusive nature of other commodity meetings on rubber and jute, the Geneva Conference threatens to look more and more like a rerun of Nairobi, lacking only perhaps the naive tactics of some who ought to have known better.

There are those who dispute this interpretation. They maintain that a fund is inevitable, and that it just remains to work out the details. Others, however, foresee a nightmare: An interminable and self-perpetuating series of meetings stretching through next year and beyond until the fund dies from old age like all the rest of us, or until it commits suicide.

But the case of Chile and copper highlights the immense tensions within the Group of 77 as well, and as commodity prices rise, more and more producers are bound to feel tempted to go for cash and break ranks.

In favour of the fund, perhaps, is that the solidarity of Western nations is by no means assured. Countries in favour of the fund and the New International Economic Order — the Scandinavians and the Netherlands — met in Oslo recently to plan tactics. And a major question mark now hangs over the United States, one of the fiercest opponents of commodity agreements at Nairobi.

At UNCTAD 4 Secretary of State Henry Kissinger made it quite clear that the world would have to wait until after the presidential elections for a clear U.S. policy towards the developing world.

Well, the election is now over and Jimmy Carter is in the White House. He appears enthusiastic about the Paris North-South Conference, and from noises made by his secretary for agriculture recently he could well be in favour of commodity agreements.

Gambia, the Secretary General, was in Washington in February gazing into the crystal ball, but although he might have returned reassured it will be some months before a clear U.S. policy begins

to emerge. By that time Geneva Conference will be long gone. So at the Geneva meeting Korea might have to set sights lower and content itself with going over the ground again, trying to expel what the fund is all about.

We are also reminded no fewer than 25 countries pledged money to the fund in Nairobi. And recent T. World meetings in Colombia and Mexico have rumbled threats to start up a Fund or without the co-operation of Western giants after this March Conference.

But at present it is too unrealistic to imagine that 77 World producers could "go alone". They need to sell commodities as much as West needs to buy them, only West has the economy which can use them.

The fund, however, is in the limelight. Like no issue it stands for the general uncomprehended "New International Economic Order", new order would change, system which developing countries argue has contributed the poverty of 1,000 million people.

But today the dream is jeopardy. The common fund in the dock. It is guilty of proven innocence. And there, little evidence that the W has been persuaded by proof offered so far.

Political risks push investors to look into deep sea mining for necessary minerals

Underdeveloped countries who give former colonialists a taste of their own medicine by nationalising their mines are scaring off investment. The alternative, to guarantee supplies of essential minerals, may well lie in the development of mining on the deep seabed.

LONDON (F.T.) — On the eve of the sixth session of the U.N. Law of the Sea Conference, the committee entrusted with establishing a new international law governing seabed mining is in as rigid a state of disagreement as it was at its first session in 1958.

If this sad state of progress continues the committee is likely to endure until ten years or so from now. By then, the world will probably be suffering from a severe and prolonged shortage of most essential metals.

Ranged on one side of the debate is the "Group of Seventy-Seven" — now more than a hundred less developed countries (LDCs) — anxious not to be left out of the scramble for the mineral riches at the bottom of the sea, and to maintain world dependence on their own land-based reserves.

On the other side are the industrialised countries. They are equally anxious to avert a future metals crisis.

Despite dire warnings by the Club of Rome, the crisis will not be caused by the exhaustion of world mineral resources but by a three fold investment crisis. Most immediate is the present overall lack of capital, but particularly that needed for long-term, high risk investment in the essential and very costly development of new mineral resources.

This present lack of capital is compounded by the highly inflated cost of mine development and processing equipment, out of all proportion to the general level of world inflation. The cost of developing a new copper complex from mine to refinery in the U.S. has risen from \$3,500 (\$2,100) per year to over \$7,000 (\$4,200)

today. The present price of copper, around 64 cents per pound — when 90 cents or even \$1.00 would be economically more realistic — also acts as a pretty strong deterrent to investors.

The advent of wealthy oil companies seeking diversification into mineral mining will certainly help to lessen the scarcity of capital for development investment, but the third and most serious hindrance to a healthy flow of capital for mining is that of political risk to investors. Here, oil companies have already learnt a lot from their experience with OPEC.

For the first 50 years of this century substantial and highly profitable mining ventures would be undertaken in almost any country in the world. Huge and attractive investments were made in South American iron ore, in Caribbean bauxite, and in the copper ores of Central Africa and Chile.

Since the last war the fall of the British and other empires has stopped the regular harvesting of the fruits of colonialism. Most poor and recently independent countries exploit strongly to foreign exploitation. Even when mining company properties have not been expropriated or otherwise entailed, their financial yields have become mere faded memories of once fabulous Anacondas and Katangas.

Chile and Zaire, for example, have expropriated copper mines belonging to companies like the U.S. Kennecott Copper Corporation (which now has a 50 per cent interest in one of the deep seabed mining consortia) or Union Minière of Belgium — though Union Minière has been invited back

into Zaire because of the failures of the Zairean mine managers.

Zambia acquired a 50 per cent interest in the Copperbelt mines. Anxious to please the populace in that area, the government insists on maintaining full employment and full production. However, there is world overstocking of copper and the production cost of the metal is uneconomic — especially since Zambia has difficulties in moving its wirebars to the sea at a realistic cost.

Guinea, with approximately two-thirds of the world's known bauxite reserves, takes 65 per cent of the profit of its Sangaredy mine. To its dismay, however, the Guinea government finds that these profits are mostly channelled into repayment of the \$310m loan obtained through the World Bank for the development of the mine. The easy answer will be a demand to its U.S., French and German partners in the FRIA mining consortium to rewire the project agreement, so that Guinea takes more and the foreign investors less of the profits.

Is it this tampering by host countries with established project agreements which causes the greatest amount of finger-pointing on the part of investors in mining companies. The established trend in LDCs is one of first courting overseas investment, followed by a whitening away of profit incentives once the foreigners are in up to their eyeballs.

To claim that the erstwhile colonial looters are getting a taste of their own medicine does not prevent this behaviour being self-defeating in its effect on investment. Merely ten years ago investment in mineral exploration in LDCs was slightly higher than that in the industrialised countries themselves, where the pickings are leaner. Today that position has

been more than reversed, with exploration investment in industrialised countries completely overshadowing that in LDCs.

Third World nationalism no need to the fact that no countries have neither the capital nor the trained manpower necessary for development of their own mineral reserves. Foreign companies are of course confronted with such string demands that their mining fits dwindle beyond vanish point into the red.

Industrialised countries, too, can deliver sudden shocks. Australian government, has courted the capital and expertise of gold mining companies with assurances of tax status, has now decided phase out that status. Canada demands that two-thirds of its Canadian-based uranium projects must be vested in domestic private enterprise, governmental bodies. Under the "Resources belong to the people" it has placed constraints on the export of uranium, to ensure the security of projected domestic needs over the next 30 years.

Sixty per cent of the world's copper mines are now controlled by the governments of host countries. The political risk factor is scaring away investment so vital to the supply of metals in the long-term future. If uranium succurs can nickel, for example, be behind?

The alternative to cajoling LDCs into honouring their project agreements, is to develop the deep seabed resources manganese, copper, cobalt and titanium, and other metals. Immense capital investment will be required to develop the new mining processing technologies, but great attraction lies in the sense hope that mining vents in international waters will be relatively free from political risk.

Hard times make for heavy competition to get big Middle East contracts

Rivalry for contracts in the Middle East will be more ruthless than ever in 1977. In a new development, European and American companies are grouping together to match the bids of Japanese giants such as Mitsubishi.

LONDON (F.T.) — Iran, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria will in the near future place contracts for railway systems which will amount to the impressive total of more than 5 billion dollars. These are prizes which the world's industrial nations, many suffering from chronic balance of payments deficits, are extremely anxious to win.

The railways are only a few of the many major projects, mostly in Middle Eastern or developing countries, which are being commissioned at the rate of more than 150 billion dollars a year. They include steel and petrochemical plants, power stations, civil engineering projects and railways.

The boom in demand has been created mainly by the Middle Eastern oil producers' dash to build industrialised economies before their oil supplies run down; but the progress of the world's developing countries is the underlying factor in long-term demand.

The Middle East has proved a dynamic market, with petromoney available to pay immediately for the plants, and a minimum of risk to the con-

tractors over payment. In the developing world there is great reliance on loans to finance these ventures.

European, North American and Japanese companies are the main competitors in the market place. Most are experiencing depressed markets at home and face a critical need to provide work for their major engineering and contracting industries.

The giant Japanese companies, such as Mitsubishi, by the nature of their structure (including the responsibility to keep all their staff employed) and the severe domestic problems, have been forced into the fore-front of the fight for contracts.

These "trading" companies usually include engineering, both light and heavy, banking and a wide range of industrial subsidiaries which can take on some of the biggest contracts virtually single-handed, including financing if necessary.

As a result they have offered highly competitive prices in tendering, sometimes half that of competitors. But they nevertheless face risks which some western countries are not prepared to accept.

Projects, some worth as much as 500 million dollars, are increasingly offered on a "turn-key" or fixed price basis, which means that a contractor must take into account the level of inflation during the building period, which can be five years or more.

If this is misjudged, the results can be disastrous, even to the point of ruining the contractor. In the case of Britain and other countries with less integrated contractors, allowances or contingencies must be made for possible failure.

When a number of sub-contractors are involved, contingencies are added 30 per cent or more to the original tender price and making the bid uncompetitive. This is a problem which Britain is attempting to solve through an improved joint-and-several insurance cover for parties involved.

In most other major European countries, industrial and financial groupings have been formed to provide strength for major bids. In Germany the government-owned Salzgitter has links with Krupp, Thyssen and Klockner, while in Belgium Sybetta, backed by the financial strength of Societe Generale, has the support of 16 major shareholders.

In France, ENSA has the backing of Creusot Loire and the Schneider Group. Italy has an advanced system of co-operation, with SNAM Progetti carrying out most of the contractual work.

The United States has large companies such as Foster Wheeler and the Fluor Corporation which have built very strong bases within their own domestic markets. While they have arguably less export credit support through Eximbank than other countries, they have the financial muscle to bid competitively for the biggest jobs.

Another major area of demand for technically advanced plants is Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The need for technology in these countries has been acute in recent years and dozens of major contracts have been placed, a key factor in the high rate of borrowing by these countries.

In a number of instances contracts have been undertaken

on a "buy-back" arrangement under which a finished product is marketed in the supplier country. However, these are not willingly accepted by many contractors.

Similarly, the fall in demand for oil and the consequent reduction in revenue for Middle East countries has induced some, such as Iran, to conclude barter deals for oil. Again, contractors are not always happy about the added complexity involved in selling the oil, but the practice is expected to become more widespread.

The role of the industrialised nations as suppliers of manufactured goods, using raw materials from developing countries, is undoubtedly changing. The Third World is busily setting up industrial infrastructures, often starting with simple products or services.

The willingness of the rich nations to lend money for such development is not without its cost, as the resources of Third World nations to repay their debts are usually stretched to the limit.

Nevertheless, there is a growing recognition that their future prosperity depends on an ability to establish industries to make the best use of their natural resources.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:	8:30 Arabic music	Arabic:	7:00 Agaba
6:00 Quran	9:30 Reportage	7:55 Cairo (EA)	8:00 Beirut
6:05 Children's programme	Channel 5:	8:20 Dubai (Alitalia)	8:20 Teluk, Medine, Heel
6:30 English by television	7:30 News in Hebrew	8:25 Muscat, Doha	Jedid (SDI)
7:00 Time to remember	7:45 Varieties	8:45 Kuwait	8:45 Beirut (MEA)
8:00 News in Arabic	8:30 Get some in	8:45 Karachi, Dubai	8:45 Cairo (EA)
Channel 3:	9:10 Saturday variety show	8:50 Agaba	8:55 Rome (Alitalia)
7:30 Family programme	10:00 News in English	8:50 Tehran	10:05 Bucharest (Taronis)
	10:15 Movie of the week	10:30 Beirut	11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
		11:35 Riyadh, Doha (SDI)	11:05 Damascus, Aleppo
		12:00 Aleppo, Damascus	11:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen
		12:40 Beirut (MEA)	12:00 London
		20:55 London (BA)	12:30 Rome, Paris
		18:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai	12:30 Jeddah (SAB)
		21:00 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa)	21:05 Bahrain (BA)

RADIO JORDAN

(On 88.5 KHz)	14:30 Radio magazine	14:30 Good vibrations
7:00 Morning melodies	14:50 Good vibrations	14:50 Good vibrations
7:30 News reports	15:00 Good vibrations	15:00 Good vibrations
8:00 Sign off	15:00 Old favourites	15:00 Old favourites
10:00 Listeners' picnic	15:00 Easy listening	15:00 Easy listening
11:00 My kind of music	15:00 Jordan weekly	15:00 Jordan weekly
11:30 Catch the word	15:00 Pop seminar	15:00 Pop seminar
11:45 Arab scientists	15:00 News summary	15:00 News summary
12:00 Pop session	15:05 15 weekly	15:05 15 weekly
12:30 News summary	15:10 Music	15:10 Music
13:00 Pop session	15:10 Varieties	15:10 Varieties
14:00 News	15:10 News	15:10 News
	15:10 Music	15:10 Music

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	University (44554)	Jala' (24228)
Amman:	Jamil Zuhdi Marakeh (57824)	Academ (72661)
Murafaq Khazneh Kaitheh (41277)	Al Far	Zarga:
Ridhi:	Al Ali Omari (2052)	Al Urdun
Ghazal Obaidat	Mahmoud Jamal (82742)	Taxis:
Pharmacies:	Amman: (24210)	Neel 44333
	Neel 44333	Tariq (20244)
	Jerusalem (20255)	Jerusalem (20255)
	Alman (55517)	Alman (55517)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arabic:	7:00 Agaba
7:55 Cairo (EA)	8:00 Beirut
8:20 Dubai (Alitalia)	8:20 Teluk, Medine, Heel
8:25 Muscat, Doha	Jedid (SDI)
8:45 Kuwait	8:45 Beirut (MEA)
8:45 Karachi, Dubai	8:45 Cairo (EA)
8:50 Agaba	8:55 Rome (Alitalia)
8:50 Tehran	10:05 Bucharest (Taronis)
10:30 Beirut	11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
11:35 Riyadh, Doha (SDI)	11:05 Damascus, Aleppo
12:00 Aleppo, Damascus	11:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen
12:40 Beirut (MEA)	12:00 London
20:55 London (BA)	12:30 Rome, Paris
18:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai	12:30 Jeddah (SAB)
21:00 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa)	21:05 Bahrain (BA)

BBC RADIO

GMT	13:00	News; Commentary
	13:15	Business and Industry
05:00	13:20	A City and its Music
05:25	13:25	News
05:30	14:00	News; Commentary
05:45	14:05	Saturday Special
05:50	14:10	Terry Wogan's LP Show
06:00	14:20	News
06:30	15:00	Radio Newsworld
07:00	15:15	Saturday Special
07:15	15:20	News; Commentary
07:30	16:15	Saturday Special
07:45	17:00	World News
07:55	17:05	World News
08:00	17:20	Terry Wogan's LP Show
08:15	17:45	Sports Round-up
08:30	18:00	News
08:40	18:15	Radio Newsworld
08:50	18:30	Theatre of the Air
09:00	19:50	Dorothy Pope
09:15	20:00	News; Commentary
09:30	20:30	Just a Minute
09:45	21:00	The Energy of God
10:00	21:15	Command Performance
11:00	21:40	Books and Writers
11:15	22:00	News
11:30	22:05	Music Now
11:45	22:45	The Week in Wales
12:00		
12:15		

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT:	18:30 Country Music USA
03:00 The Breakfast Show	18:00 News and Topical Reports
03:30 The hour and 28 min.	18:15 Letters from Listeners
06:30 after each hour.	18:30 New York, New York
17:00 News	20:00 Special English. News.
17:15 This Week	Words and their Stories
17:30 Press Conference USA	21:00 News
18:00 Special English. News/ Words and their Stories. Feature. Short Stories. News Summary.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 70111
Civil defence rescue	24225-4
Fire headquarters	23880
Post, tele, and tele. police	19
Russian Electric Power Co. (emergency)	24221-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	27111-3
Railway headquarters	28121
Night, saving patrol (emergency)	21111, 27777
Spoken 24 hours a day for emergency help	
Cultural Centres	
American Centre (USA)	Tel. 41230
British Council	24225-3
French Cultural Centre	27000
German Institute	41230
Soviet Cultural Centre	41230
Amman Municipal Library	20111

GOREN BRIDGE

CHARLES H. GOREN
BY OMAR SHARIF

Neither vulnerable, as you hold:
♠ 7 6 2 ♦ 10 9 5 ♣ Q J 7
bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 2 ♣
Pass ?
What action do you take?

You must take some action, there are three reasonable ones: a bid of two spades; a bid of two no trump; or a bid of two hearts. We slightly favor the last. Your side has a combined total of at least 23 points, with the strength of the trump suit. A double is by no means a sure thing, for West is bidding on distribution. East may produce a useful suit, but the risks are acute.

East-West vulnerable, with you hold:
♠ 7 6 2 ♦ 10 9 5 ♣ J 8 6 2
bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Dbie. Pass 1 ♦
2 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Did three no trump. Partner's auction shows a hand worth a two no trump bid. He surely has the talent of 21 points, and you 6. Simple arithmetic solves the problem.

As South, vulnerable, with you hold:
♠ 7 6 2 ♦ 10 9 5 ♣ J 8 6 2
bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
3 ♦ Dbie. Pass

What do you bid now?
Four side should have, at game, and even slam is conceivable. But in which suit? You do not make the choice easily. By cue-bidding the ♠ suit, you give partner the choice of selecting a suit, and you support whichever he picks.

Both vulnerable, with you hold:
♠ 7 6 2 ♦ 10 9 5 ♣ A Q 8 5 3
bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass 2 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—You could play it cute by bidding three diamonds, but the choice is really between three no trump and three spades. With such a large part of your values in diamonds, we would opt for the former, and, because of your tenaces, no trump should be played from your side.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A 10 9 5 ♥ A 9 7 6 2 ♦ 10 9 7 ♣ 6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥ Pass 2 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—Bid two spades. Since you had a secondary fit with partner's diamond suit, your hand rates a move toward game. You should make your try and pin-point where you need help by bidding your second suit. If you simply re-raise to three hearts, partner won't be able to judge how well the hands fit and you may land in a hopeless game—or miss a good one.

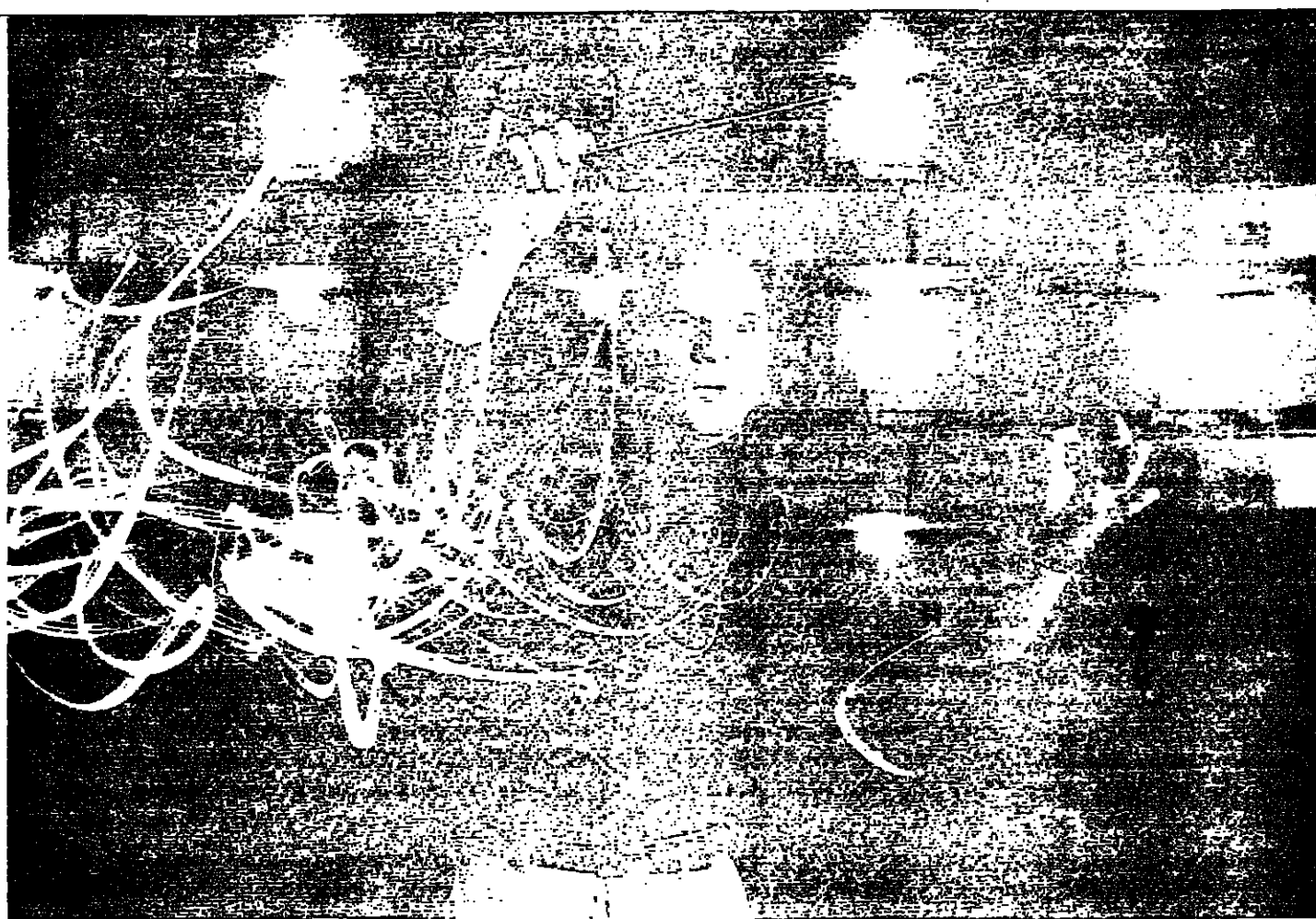
Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9 8 5 ♥ A K ♦ A K Q 10 ♣ A J 9 3
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♦ Pass 2 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—Partner's jump shows a hand that was just short of an opening bid, with a good spade suit. Since a change of suit would be forcing, you could try three clubs. However, for slam all you really are interested in is the quality of partner's spades, so we would leap to five spades. A bid over game in the trump suit here asks partner to continue on to slam if his suit is good enough to play opposite a holding such as yours.

Q.7—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q J 9 5 4 ♥ A 8 ♦ 10 6 2 ♣ A Q 6
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♦ Pass 2 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—If a double of two spades were for penalties, we might suggest that bid. Unfortunately, partner will construe a double here for takeout, suspecting that you are merely competing for the part score with a weakish hand that did not merit earlier action. That would lead to disaster. The opponents are playing in your best suit—let them struggle.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



MURRAY SIDLIN, seen here conducting in multi-exposures, is resident conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra

of Washington, D.C. At 35, he typifies an exciting new breed of maestro today—young, visible, articulate and, most impor-

tant, sought. Symphony orchestras across America are acknowledging communal responsibilities as never before, with

conductors as their representatives to the public.

...HALLO!
IS THIS 67171-2-3-4?
I'D LIKE TO RESERVE
A SPACE FOR AN AD IN
THE JORDAN TIMES...

MA
BELL
IS A
CLOCK
WATCHER

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

MOVIE OF THE WEEK: RUN WILD, RUN FREE

Cast: John Mills, Sylvia Syms, Mark Lester

Ten-year old Philip Ransome living on the lonely and rugged moors in the west of England cannot speak since early childhood. Emotionally repressed, he identifies with the wild animals of the moors.

SATURDAY VARIETY SHOW: PAUL ANKA

A one-hour colour variety special featuring Paul Anka and his famous songs.

MAKE THE JORDAN TIMES WORK FOR YOU

An advertisement in the Jordan Times will be seen by some 10,000 people in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Don't you have anything to say to them?

To spread your word, contact the Jordan Times advertising department by phone at 67171, or in person at the Jordan Times—Al Ra'i building, on University Road.

OUT AND ABOUT

BLISS STEAKHOUSE

Firas Wings Hotel, Jabal Al Luweibdeh. Tel. 22103/4. Choice of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and a la carte. Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12 p.m. Specialty: steaks.

CHINESE RESTAURANT

First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Ahlyah School or CMS. Tel. 38968. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service—order by phone.

QUICK MEAL

Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabal Amman, First Circle. Tel. 21083. Jabal Al Luweibdeh, Hawas Circle. Tel. 30646. Jabal Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinema. Tel. 21781. Also in Zarka and Irbid.

THE DIPLOMAT

First Circle, Jabal Amman. Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38869. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good time to carry through with whatever you have already started but that needs more work on it. You find some unexpected circumstance or annoyance that can cause you to change your thinking.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle tasks that have been left undone; then get to those vital letters that need writing. Avoid a situation that leads to trouble.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study further into a plan that will bring you a greater abundance in the future. Plan needed improvements to property.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Take care of personal matters first; then get into other activities. Plan to do some entertaining soon or accept an invitation extended to you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Clear up confidential matters then set up a whole new set of circumstances for yourself. Try not arguing with a loved one.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Good time to assist friends with their problems and show you are loyal, understanding. Not a good time for entertaining. Avoid hassling.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A good time to handle a public matter that could add prestige and better credit. Try not to argue with anyone. Shop early.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan how to have a more worthwhile existence in the future and then put ideas to work. Show the proper attitude toward a new friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your intuition is fine so use it to best advantage along with your good judgment. Show more devotion to a loved one and get fine results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Understand what is your part of any agreement with allies and carry through efficiently. Get into some civic work which is good for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Find a better way to get your ideas working in a most clever way and get excellent results. Look for new items to add to wardrobe.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get busy early and put finest talents to work. Plan time for recreation also. Home is your best bet for now.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Take care of household chores and then take health treatments you need. Keep necessary appointments. Take no risks with credit.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four Jumbles, letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

EXOID

RATIE

RFALL

ESNIC



MAY BE "RIED" AT HAVING NOTHING TO DO

Print answer here: AN "XXXXXX"

Today's Jumbles: TESTY SMACK KERNEL BECKON

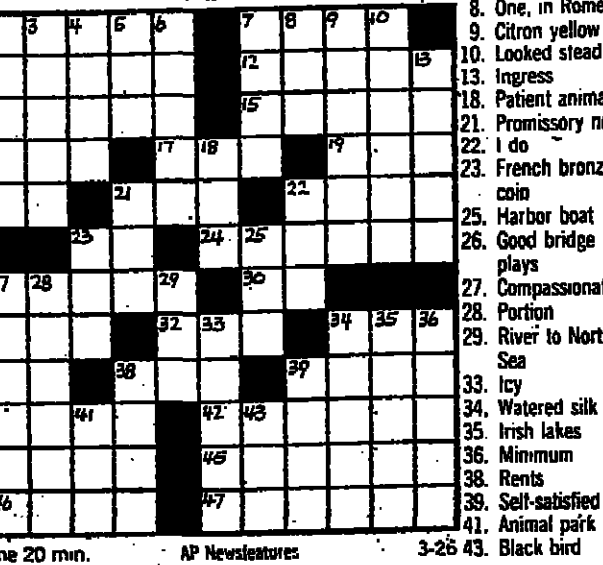
Answer: Indecorous behavior in the theater—A "SCENE"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

26. Ship's rope
30. You and me
31. Hawaiian feast
32. Urge
34. Honey
37. Norse county
38. Shelter
39. Touchy
40. Indian corn
42. Layer
44. Snob
45. Accustoms
46. Man's name
47. Compendium
DOWN
1. Humiliate
2. Parrot
3. Loosen
4. Extol
5. Juan Carlos' grandmother
6. Claw
7. Breaking waves
8. One, in Rome
9. Citron yellow
10. Looked steadily
11. Ingress
12. Patient animal
21. Promissory note
22. French bronze coin
23. Harbor boat
26. Good bridge plays
27. Compassionate
28. Porion
29. River to North Sea
33. Icy
34. Watered silk
35. Irish lakes
36. Minimum
38. Rents
39. Self-satisfied
41. Animal park

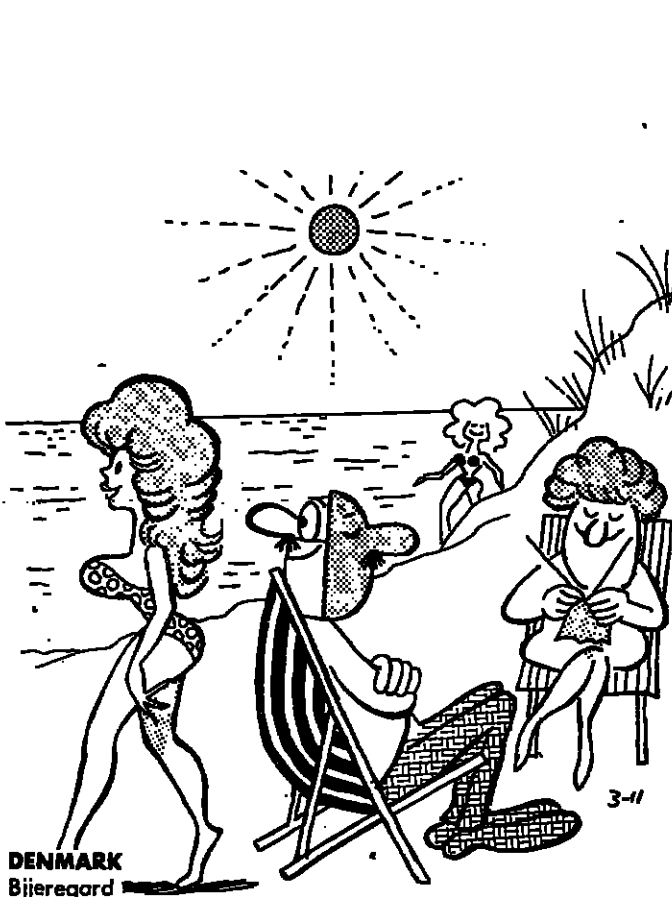
TRE OPS SAGO
ION XAT EBON
RAT TRY DEAL
ITEA FATTY
RACER BUT
ITER DERIVED
MERMAID VOTE
AIM TENON
GANGS MASK
OLEA BAN EMS
LEAN ADS YAK
DART TOY SNY

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE



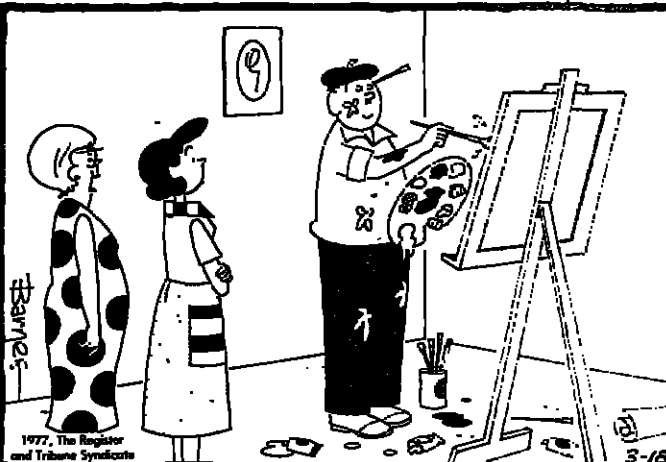
me 20 min. AP Newsletters 3-26 43. Black bird

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



DENMARK
Bjerggaard

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



"He insists he's a budding artist. I say he's a blooming nuisance."

PEANUTS



THE FLINTSTONES



MUTT AND JEFF



Earthquake strikes eastern Turkey

ANKARA, March 25 (Agencies) — An earthquake struck eastern Turkey today killing at least 20 people, and officials said the toll was expected to rise.

The quake caused severe damage in and around the small town of Palu. The Palu sub-prefect (local government administrator) said a radio broadcast that villages in the immediate vicinity were four-fifths destroyed.

But fears of a major disaster

receded as a clearer picture began to emerge of the situation in the remote area, more than 600 km east of Ankara.

The quake struck while people slept at 2.55 a.m. bringing down some flimsy homes and damaging many more.

Nine hours later, Turkish Radio said army communications had succeeded in reaching outlying villages, but full casualty figures were not immediately available.

U.K.'s Labour leftists angry over deal with Liberal Party

LONDON, March 25 (R). — The rule of Britain by a Labour-Liberal alliance gets fully under way next week, already facing angry rumblings from Labour's left wingers.

A parliamentary by-election at the Birmingham constituency of Stechford next Thursday is expected to give the first indication of what the public thinks of the new deal, under which the Labour government regularly consults with a Liberal "shadow administration".

The question hanging over

the experiment is how long the strong Labour left, which has been urging socialist legislation on the government, will tolerate what amounts to a veto by the small Liberal Party under its leader David Steel.

Mr. Steel has said that "socialism is the one thing this country is not going to get so long as this agreement lasts". The Labour left has demanded a full meeting of the parliamentary party which Prime Minister James Callaghan will face questions.

The Kandilli Geophysical Seismological Observatory at Istanbul said the tremor was too localised to be detected in Istanbul. But initial reports indicated that the quake was felt in an area 350 kms long and 150 kms wide.

Palu is only 50 kms from the huge Keban Dam on the Euphrates river.

An earthquake killed more than 5,000 people in eastern Turkey last November, some 300 km east of the site of today's shock.

Earthquakes repeatedly strike in the rugged mountains that form the backbone of Turkey. The March 1970 Gediz earthquake in western Anatolia was one of the biggest ever recorded, measuring nine on the open-ended Richter scale.

The semi-official Anatolian News Agency said about 40 people were injured today in Palu. It added that about 800 houses were damaged.

Many houses there are built of mud and light materials, and any significant shock is enough to bring some down.

Lorries carried tents, blankets, medical equipment and rescue teams into the area. Palu lies on a main railway route into eastern Turkey. Recurrent tremors continued after today's initial shock.

EEC marks 20th anniversary

ROME, March 25 (R). — Leaders of the European Common Market today marked its 20th anniversary with most of their national governments in a weak state.

"They will all want to comfort each other," a senior diplomat commented.

The political woes included a caretaker government in the Netherlands, a cutting deal to enable the British government to survive, minority governments in Italy and Denmark, and election setbacks in France and West Germany.

Senior diplomatic sources said no major decisions were

expected to be taken at the two-day summit here, one of the regular meetings of heads of government.

The only disputed issue was whether the Common Market should be represented at the summit on world economic policy in London on May 7 between the United States, West Germany, Japan, France, Britain, Italy, and Canada.

France is alone insisting that the London meeting remain an inter-governmental affair.

The smaller EEC states, particularly Holland and Belgium,

feel that the community should be represented in London by its Executive Commission.

West Germany and Britain have adopted in-between positions.

Today's events started with a ceremony at the Campidoglio, the Rome City Hall redesigned by Michelangelo, addressed by Italian President Giovanni Leone and Communist-sponsored Mayor of Rome, Giulio Carlo Argan.

The leaders opened their discussions — as usual without a formal agenda — after a lunch given by Signor Leone at the President's Quirinale Palace.

Likely topics included worries about Japanese exports to the Common Market, the projected final phase of the North-South dialogue with the Third World and the recent increase in human rights dissidence in Eastern Europe.

Portuguese government reshuffled

LISBON, March 25 (R). — Prime Minister Mario Soares today reshuffled Portugal's minority Socialist government, naming three new ministers and dismissing one, the Secretary of State for Information announced.

It was the first major change in the cabinet since the government took office last July. The reshuffle had been expected since last January when industry and Technology Minister Walter Rosa resigned after his son had been arrested on bank robbery charges.

Mr. Nicolae left Kuwait for home yesterday after leading his country's team at the fourth and last round of negotiations.

In reply to a question, Mr. Nicolae said a date and venue for formal signing of the project agreement would be set soon.

"It will be a government-to-government agreement, not one between companies, and this will provide the Kuwaiti side with the necessary guarantees," he said.

A spokesman for the Kuwaiti Oil Ministry had said the project would cost between \$800 to \$1,000 million, with Kuwait's share amounting to 49 per cent, and Romania 51 per cent.

However, Al Watan said today the two sides had agreed on a \$1,250 million capital for the scheme.

Kuwait, Romania to build Black Sea chemical complex

KUWAIT, March 25 (R). — Kuwaiti and Romanian funds and manpower only will be used to build a planned petrochemical complex on the Black Sea coast and no third party will be allowed to join the project either directly or indirectly, the chief Romanian negotiator said.

Mr. Ion Nicolae, Deputy Chemical Industry Minister, said in an interview with Al Watan newspaper published here today, that Romania had pledged to train Kuwaiti engineers and technicians in the oil domain.

"The most important factor of the joint enterprise is that Kuwait will supply more than 160,000 barrels of crude oil per day for the project aboard Kuwait tankers regularly and continuously," he added.

of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates decided to boost their oil prices by 5 per cent.

OPEC's 11 other members opted for an increase of 10 per cent to be followed by a further 5 per cent hike in July.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* LONDON, March 25 (AFP). — Britain's terms of trade with its partners in the Common Market improved last year for the first time since 1970, the Department of Trade announced. The department's bulletin, Trade and Industry, said Britain's deficit with EEC member nations had declined to \$2,077 million (\$3,531 million) in 1976 after worsening steadily from 1970 to 1975. From 1975 to 1976, the deficit was trimmed by \$271 million (\$460.7 million) while the shortfall in trade with the rest of the world widened by about \$400 million (\$560 million).

* JAKARTA, March 25 (AFP). — French Foreign Trade Minister Andre Rossi arrived here today to inaugurate France's largest overseas technical fair since World War II. The fair, housed in three exhibition halls in the centre of the city, was formally opened this afternoon by Mr. Rossi and the Indonesian Minister of Economic Affairs Widjojo Nitisastro. In brief remarks on his arrival, Mr. Rossi stressed France's desire to boost trade and cooperation with Indonesia.

* KUWAIT, March 25 (R). — Kuwait and Brazil have agreed to increase their cooperation in the fields of oil, investments and trade, it was officially announced here. Mr. Mohammad Qassem Al Saddah, head of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry's Economic Department, made the announcement at the conclusion of talks here Wednesday night. He said a protocol to this effect was signed by chairmen of a joint Kuwaiti-Brazilian committee which has been discussing commercial and economic cooperation. Mr. Al Saddah, who led the Kuwaiti team, added that discussions covered use of Brazil's technological experience and facilitating telecommunications and transport between the two countries.

* SANAA, March 25 (R). — President Ibrahim Al Hamdi of Yemen today inaugurated a power station in the ancient port of Al Mokha, which gave its name to the moka coffee it used to export. The new power plant is part of plans to revive the port, which has declined into a harbour for fishing boats and other small craft, so that it can relieve congestion at Hodeidah.

Podgorny, Nyerere discuss black majority rule in Southern Africa

DAR ES SALAAM, March 25 — Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny and Tanzanian leader Julius Nyerere discussed the overthrow of white minority rule in Southern Africa in their last round of talks here today.

Officials said before today's meeting, the third round of discussions during Mr. Podgorny's four-day visit to Tanzania, that it would be devoted entirely to the Southern Africa question.

The Soviet president, who is due to leave for Zambia tomorrow, earlier told reporters his country had an identical

policy with African front-line states who are supporting intensified guerrilla warfare in the breakaway British colony of Rhodesia.

The Southern African question is central to the policies of both the Soviet Union and Tanzania. The Kremlin has enhanced its prestige in the area by giving arms and support to black nationalist guerrillas, while Dr. Nyerere is dedicated to the liberation of the area from white minority rule.

Meanwhile, Soviet flags flew alongside the flag of Mozambique in Maputo today as the capital prepared a major reception for the Soviet president.

Although Mr. Podgorny not due to arrive in Maputo from Zambia until March 2, the flags and a recent spate of newspaper articles and radio programmes about the Soviet Union signalled the importance the government attached to the four-day visit.

It will be the second visit to an important Communist leader in just over a week. Cuba Premier Fidel Castro was in Mozambique on March 21 while he and the Mozambique government pledged support for "armed liberation struggle" (the only way to liberate Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)).

President Podgorny and President Samora Machel of Mozambique are also expected to discuss the Rhodesian situation.

Castro: Cuban aid to Angola a duty

LUANDA, March 25 (R). — Cuban leader Fidel Castro said his country would not place any limits on its "international duty" of aiding Angola, the official Angolan news agency reported.

Dr. Castro was speaking at a rally last night in the "Golf" quarter, the most populous area of the capital, where thousands

of Angolans greeted President Agostinho Neto and the Cuban leader with chants of "Neto and Fidel together until victory," the agency said.

Dr. Castro, on his first visit to the country where thousands of his troops fought alongside President Neto's forces in the civil war, reiterated Cuba's pledge "not to place any limits on

collaboration with Angola. "More than helping, Cuba fulfilling an international duty he told the crowd.

As a practical example of his country's aid, Dr. Castro pointed to a team of Cuban bridge builders nearby. One of 14 Cuban workers told the radio that 46 bridges would be built in the next 16 months.

U.S., Vietnam seem determined to forget their past hostility

HANOI, March 25 (AFP). — The United States is moving towards normalisation of relations with Vietnam, 27 years after it was dragged into the quagmire of a lost war.

Observers here believe that, barring unforeseen circumstances, the American flag will be flown again in one of Hanoi's streets by the end of this year.

They recalled that in 1954, when the French Expeditionary Corps was defeated at Dien Bien Phu, and the United States was adopting a wait-and-see attitude, the American Stars-and-Stripes flew at the centre of the Vietnamese capital.

Ironically, the American Consulate premises were used by representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (PRG) from the end of 1961 up to last year.

Now redecorated and repainted but without a flag, the residence is waiting for new occupants.

There has been an undeniable improvement in relations between the erstwhile enemies, as indicated by the resumption of U.S.-Vietnamese talks with the arrival of an American presidential mission in Hanoi.

A personal message from Premier Phan Van Dong to U.S. President Jimmy Carter proposing the lifting of all obstacles to "friendship and peace between the two countries and Mr. Carter's announcement that the United States and Vietnam will resume talks in Paris also point to an improvement.

The leaders of Vietnam and the United States seem intent on letting bygones be bygones and forgetting a sad episode in their history that claimed the lives of an estimated 50,000 Americans and three million Vietnamese.

The two countries are now apparently willing to make mutual concessions, having abandoned earlier pre-conditions that were responsible for the stalemate in their talks.

Washington, which has recovered the remains of 12 Americans missing in action (MIA) is refraining from insisting on a full accounting for MIA's.

Hanoi, in turn, no longer demands that the United States stick to previous promises of providing about \$3,000 million of aid to "heal the wounds of war."

That figure was mentioned during a visit here in 1973 by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Vietnamese leaders do not really expect to receive such substantial assistance.

But many observers here hold this did not indicate that Hanoi, aware of the gap between President Carter and the U.S. Congress, would cease demanding the U.S. should play a very active part in the post-war reconstruction.

It is in America's political interests to retain a foothold in an Asian region, which will definitely remain prominent in

the decade following the 3 year war.

No less obvious is Vietnam's desire to have a counter-weight apparently the United States so as to avoid becoming too dependent on its two big S. allies.

The Vietnamese still remember that China -- home of 8 million -- invaded their country several times in the past.

The Soviet Union, more distant, shows great friendliness. But the Vietnamese believe that because of the huge war debt they incurred, the Soviets might one day be tempted to exert pressure -- if that has not already happened -- on this friendly neighbour.

In the midst of the war, Vietnamese embarked on the "triangular" policy. With the United States on the one side, the third partner had to be Western Europe.

At the height of the American B-52 bombings, it was not uncommon to hear a Vietnamese saying to a European: "The Vietnamese hoped for moral, diplomatic, financial or technical support from West Europe."

The U.S.-Vietnam rapprochement will not Europe, especially France, down to its proper size, and many observers predict that political and economic relations between Vietnam and the United States will have only secondary place compared with the complicated ties between Hanoi and Moscow, Peking and Washington.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Saudi Arabia blacklists U.K.'s Barclays Bank

JEDDAH, March 25 (R). — Saudi Arabia is to stop all trading with the British Barclays Bank group, the U.S. firm, Colgate, and several other companies because of their dealings with Israel, the government gazette Um Al Qura reported today.

The Saudi government blacklisted the companies, which include British Vickers, after giving notice six months ago to

conform with the Arab boycott of Israel, the gazette said. Barclays formed its Tel Aviv-based Barclays Discount Bank in association with the Israel Discount Bank in 1971. It now has 50 branches in Israel.

(In London, a spokesman for Barclays Bank said it had no branches in Saudi Arabia so there was no question of offices being closed down).

Tunisian cereal crops suffer from drought

TUNIS, March 25 (AFP). — Tunisia's three-month-old drought has already destroyed 30 to 50 per cent of cereal crops, Agriculture Minister Hassan Belkhouja said in an interview published today.

Mr. Belkhouja told the daily newspaper "L'Action" that the drought was "worrisome at the national level" and "serious" in certain central and southern regions.

It was generally believed that persistence of the dry spell past the end of this month would

also have serious consequences on livestock.

Grain production overall, which totalled 11.5 million quintals in 1976 is expected to drop sharply this year, forcing Tunisia to boost cereal imports.

Currently, the country imports about two million quintals annually to meet domestic demand.

Also hard hit by the drought were sugar beets, vegetables and irrigation crops not watered sufficiently as result of the rain shortage.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices declined broadly for the seventh day in a row Friday on the New York stock exchange, where the industrial average lost more than six points in very low trading.

Transactions were at the same depressed levels as before. Analysts said investors are anticipating the worst on their interests from the Carter administration's plan to fight inflation and conserve energy.

Declines outnumbered advances at the close by a 901 to 492 margin.

Among the hardest hit were Firestone, that lost 1.5 at 19 5/8, Burroughs which was off 5/8 at 61 3/8, and Dupont de Nemours which lost 2 5/8 at 61 3/8.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 928.86, a loss of 6.81 points; Transp at 226.29, a loss of 1.94; utilities at 105.22, a loss of 0.38. 16,550,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,640,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market Friday was easier on lack of support ahead of next Tuesday's budget and end account influences, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down 4.3 at 417.1.

The new government stock (800 mln stg 12-1/4 pct exchequer 1992 loan) attracted most interest in government bonds today, dealers said. It closed at a premium of around 1/8 at 15-1/8 having touched 15-5/16 stg. Elsewhere long-dated loans lost up to 3/8 point and occasionally more while shorts were steady.

Equity leaders, weakened, but gold shares were above the day's lows. Dollar stocks and Canadians lost ground.

Fisons ended 10p down while falls of 4p to 8p were seen in Courtaulds, Glaxo, ICI, Guest Keen, Hawker and Beecham.

Barclays Bank eased 7p on news that it was officially blacklisted by Saudi Arabia. Other banks also declined.

Price of gold closed in London Friday at \$133.55/oz.

مركز الصحافة